

North West
Social Science
Doctoral Training
Partnership



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Research Council

Kenetic Youth – Internship

Co-Producing Change: Empowering
Marginalised Young People Through
Research, Practice, and Organisational
Development.

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Project Outline

Kinetic Youth is proposing a project that offers NWSSDTP students the opportunity to engage in research and applied practice that empowers marginalised young people, especially those involved in the youth justice system, excluded from mainstream education, or in care. Rooted in co-production and social justice, the project offers multiple pathways for students to develop practical and research skills while contributing to meaningful change.

Placement Timeline and Key Objectives

Pathways:

1. Youth Voice in the Justice System

Objective: Explore the lived experiences of young people in the justice system and how their input can shape more effective and human services.

Activities:

- Conduct participatory workshops with young people
- Analyse service provision from their perspective
- Co-create policy or practice recommendations

2. Education Exclusion and Reconnection

Objective: Examine causes and consequences of school exclusion and how young people re-engage through alternative education.

Activities:

- Interviews or ethnographic research in PRUs or alternative provision
- Evaluation of support structures
- Development of inclusive practice frameworks

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2. Building and Sustaining Youth-Led Programmes

Objective: Investigate the structure, impact, and long-term sustainability of youth-led initiatives within Kinetic Youth.

Activities:

- Evaluation of existing programmes
- Development of monitoring and impact tools
- Co-design of youth leadership models

3. Fundraising for Youth Impact

Objective: Support Kinetic Youth's financial sustainability by contributing to its fundraising strategy.

Activities:

- Mapping current and potential funding sources
- Assisting with grant writing and impact reporting
- Co-producing communications and case studies with young people

4. Administration and Organisational Development

Objective: Analyse and support the internal systems and operational processes that enable Kinetic Youth to deliver high-quality services.

Activities:

- Review and improve administrative processes, such as scheduling, safeguarding, and data management
- Explore how organisational policies align with youth work values
- Support documentation and evaluation processes across departments
- Identify areas for efficiency and growth, particularly in managing multi-site operations and partnerships

Cross-Cutting Objectives Across All Projects:

- Champion co-production by involving young people in the research process
- Promote ethical, inclusive, and youth-led approaches to inquiry
- Create practical outputs for use by Kinetic Youth and its partners
- Build the student's applied research, communication, and professional skills

Anticipated Outputs:

- Co-authored reports or toolkits
- Practical frameworks or policy recommendations
- Academic dissemination (e.g., journal article or conference presentation)
- Operational resources, grant drafts, or administrative tools

These projects are ideal for NWSSDTP students from Sociology, Social Policy, Psychology, or Management pathways. Whether focused on frontline youth work, organisational systems, or fundraising, each project offers the chance to contribute to real-world impact and to develop key skills for careers in research, policy, or the third sector.

Required and Desired Skills

The project would be particularly well-suited to students from the Business, Accounting, *Sociology*, *Social Policy*, *Criminology*, *Psychology* and or other related courses to pathways of the NWSSDTP, especially those with interests in applied research, social justice, and youth-focused work. Based on Kinetic Youth's mission and model, the following skills and knowledge would be particularly beneficial:

As an Administrator:

- Strong organisational and time management skills
- Experience coordinating projects across multiple stakeholders
- Familiarity with safeguarding procedures and data protection regulations
- Confidence in navigating institutional systems (e.g., youth justice settings, schools)

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As a Fundraiser:

- Understanding of the third-sector landscape and funding streams for youth services
- Grant writing and reporting skills
- Ability to communicate project impact clearly to funders and stakeholders
- Strategic planning and budgeting awareness

As a Youth Worker:

- Experience working with vulnerable or marginalised young people
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills, including active listening and trauma-informed approaches
- Knowledge of youth justice, education exclusion, or social care systems
- Understanding of co-production and participatory methods in youth engagement
- Awareness of ethical considerations when conducting research with young people

Additionally, desirable methodological skills across all roles include:

- Qualitative research methods (e.g. interviews, focus groups, ethnography)
- Experience with participatory or youth-led research approaches
- Reflective practice and an understanding of power dynamics in research settings

This project would suit a student with aspirations to work in youth services, community development, or policy advocacy, particularly those who are motivated to combine academic research with real-world impact.

Timeframe

All projects will not exceed the stipulated duration, i.e. part-time over 6 months or full-time over 3 months

Delivery of the project

The youth voice in the justice system, building and sustaining youth-led programmes and education exclusion and reconnection are in person while fundraising, administration and organisational projects are virtual.

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Induction process and support you will receive

The recruited student will be integrated into Kinetic as a valued team member under a work placement agreement. While not a full-time employee, they will be treated with the same respect, access to resources, and expectations of professionalism as permanent staff. Their status is that of a placement participant, and they will contribute to ongoing projects while gaining real-world experience in a supportive, structured environment.

Induction and Onboarding

Upon commencement, the student will undergo a comprehensive induction process which includes:

Introduction to the Organisation:

- Overview of Kinetic's structure, mission, and daily operations.
- Ongoing Support and Resources to ensure a successful integration, the student will be supported through:
- Named line manager: Each student will be assigned a direct line manager or mentor to oversee their tasks, offer regular feedback, and provide guidance.
- Regular Check-ins: Weekly or bi-weekly one-on-one meetings to discuss progress, well-being, and any concerns.
- Access to Training Resources: Including documentation, software, and internal tutorials relevant to their role.
- Workplace Conduct and Safeguarding: Clear expectations are set out in Kinetic's policy documents to ensure respectful and inclusive conduct in the workplace.

Kinetic is committed to maintaining a safe, welcoming, and empowering environment for all placement students. Their development, well-being, and contribution are taken seriously, and structures are in place to ensure their placement is both educational and enjoyable.

Ethics Approval

Kinetic Youth does not operate a formal internal ethics committee or require institutional ethical approval for all project-based activities. However, ethical practice is deeply embedded in all aspects of the organisation's work, particularly given its focus on supporting vulnerable and marginalised young people. The organisation adheres to clear safeguarding policies, confidentiality protocols, and data protection regulations (including GDPR) as outlined in the Working Practices Manual.

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Ethical Considerations and Safeguards:

- **Safeguarding Policies:** Any work involving young people, particularly those in custodial or care settings, is governed by strict safeguarding procedures. Staff and placement students are required to read and adhere to these guidelines.
- **Consent and Participation:** Engagement with young people is grounded in informed consent, voluntary participation, and clear communication about how information will be used.
- **Confidentiality and Data Handling:** The organisation ensures that all personal data is anonymised where appropriate, securely stored, and handled in line with data protection policies.
- **DBS Checks:** All individuals working directly with young people must undergo an Enhanced DBS check (or its equivalent), as per safeguarding protocols.

Approval Confirmation:

For NWSSDTP students undertaking research or evaluation projects, ethical approval from their academic institution will be required before commencing any fieldwork. Kinetic Youth supports this process by:

- Providing information on safeguarding and consent practices.
- Assisting with risk assessments where relevant.
- Confirming their commitment to ethical co-production and safe engagement with participants.

Kinetic does not issue its own formal ethics approvals but fully supports and complies with any ethics frameworks provided by partner universities and funders.

Equality and Diversity commitments

Kinetic Youth is fully aligned with the NWSSDTP's commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, recognising that inclusive practice is foundational to meaningful engagement and positive outcomes—particularly for the marginalised young people we serve. Kinetic's approach is rooted in principles of co-production, empowerment, and accessibility, and we are committed to creating a placement environment where all students feel welcomed, supported, and able to thrive.

Commitment to Equity and Inclusion:

- We actively welcome students from diverse backgrounds, including those underrepresented in higher education, and are committed to addressing systemic inequalities through our organisational practice.
- Our safeguarding and anti-discrimination policies are central to our operations, ensuring respectful conduct and inclusion across all levels of interaction.

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- We actively work to amplify marginalised voices, both within our youth programmes and in the way we design projects and partnerships.

Reasonable Adjustments and Support:

Kinetic Youth is fully committed to making reasonable adjustments for disabled students or those facing other barriers to inclusion. This may include:

- Adjusting working hours or project formats to accommodate specific needs
- Providing remote access or hybrid placement options where possible
- Offering quiet spaces or tailored communication styles
- Ensuring accessible documentation and resources

We would work closely with the student and their institution to understand individual requirements and implement appropriate accommodations from the start of the placement.

Accessibility and Physical Access:

Most of Kinetic Youth's central administrative and delivery locations are accessible and adaptable, including wheelchair access. However, some youth delivery sites (such as youth offending institutes or secure settings) may have restrictions or fixed access conditions outside our direct control due to security or government regulations. In such cases:

- We will assess placement suitability in advance.
- We will work collaboratively to offer alternative settings or remote/desk-based contributions to ensure equitable access.

We are happy to discuss any specific concerns before placement and will ensure all students feel supported, safe, and valued throughout their time with us.

How to apply

To apply for this role, please complete the 'Expression of Interest form' available on the NWSSDTP website (<https://nwssdtp.ac.uk/ripps/>), using job title mentioned in the NWSSDTP advertisement

Once completed and discussed with your supervisor, return the completed form to Ellie Sandman (ripps@liverpool.ac.uk)

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